

CHAPTER 23-35.1
REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORKS

23-35.1-01. Definitions.

For purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. The definitions of section 23-35-01 apply; and
2. "Regional public health network" means a group of public health units that have entered a joint powers agreement or an existing lead multidistrict health unit identified in the emergency preparedness and response region which has been reviewed by the state health officer and has been verified as meeting the requirements of this chapter and chapter 54-40.3.

23-35.1-02. Regional public health network - Joint powers agreement - Review by state health officer - Criteria.

Before a group of public health units may be designated as a regional public health network, the state health officer shall review the joint powers agreement the districts entered and verify that:

1. The geographical region covered by the regional public health network corresponds to one of the emergency preparedness and response regions established by the state department of health.
2. The joint powers agreement requires that the participating public health units:
 - a. Share various administrative functions and public health services in accordance with subsection 3;
 - b. Comply with requirements the health council adopts by rule; and
 - c. Meet department maintenance of effort funding requirements, which must be calculated based on each unit's dollar or mill levy public health unit contribution in calendar year 2007.
3. The joint powers agreement requires:
 - a. A regional public health network to share the following public health services:
 - (1) Emergency preparedness and response;
 - (2) Environmental health services; and
 - (3) A regional public health network health officer, although this paragraph does not prohibit a public health unit from appointing a local health officer.
 - b. A regional public health network to select and share at least three administrative functions and at least three public health services, as provided under this subdivision:
 - (1) "Administrative functions" are:
 - (a) Financial accounting, billing, and accounts receivable;
 - (b) Community assessment and planning;
 - (c) Contract compliance;
 - (d) Public health service improvement planning;
 - (e) Human resource management;
 - (f) Technology support;
 - (g) Budgeting;
 - (h) Workforce development;
 - (i) Public information;
 - (j) Grant writing;
 - (k) Inventory management, including vaccines; and
 - (l) Any other functions approved by the state health officer.
 - (2) "Public health services" are:
 - (a) School health;
 - (b) Nutrition;
 - (c) Family planning;
 - (d) Injury prevention;
 - (e) Violence prevention;
 - (f) Tobacco prevention and cessation;

- (g) Oral health;
 - (h) Cancer prevention;
 - (i) Maternal and child health;
 - (j) Asthma;
 - (k) Diabetes;
 - (l) Cardiovascular health;
 - (m) Physical activity;
 - (n) Immunizations;
 - (o) Communicable disease programs;
 - (p) Mental health;
 - (q) Chronic disease;
 - (r) Public health visits; and
 - (s) Any other services approved by the state health officer.
4. The joint powers agreement provides:
 - a. Criteria for the future participation of public health units that were not parties to the original joint powers agreement;
 - b. An application process by which public health units that were not parties to the original joint powers agreement may become participating districts; and
 - c. A process by which public health units that were not parties to the original joint powers agreement may appeal a decision to deny an application to participate in the agreement to the state health officer.
 5. The joint powers agreement provides for the structure of the governing body of the network.

23-35.1-03. Regional public health network - Annual plan.

A regional public health network shall prepare an annual plan regarding the provision of the required and optional public health services and shall submit the plan to the state health officer for approval.

23-35.1-04. Regional public health networks - Receipt and use of moneys.

The board of a regional public health network may receive and expend moneys for the provision of administrative functions, public health services, and any other lawful activities.

23-35.1-05. Compensation - Reimbursement - Extraordinary service.

The board of a regional public health network may provide compensation and reimbursement to any board member who, at the direction of the board, performs extraordinary service on behalf of the board. For purposes of this section, "extraordinary service" means duties beyond those reasonably expected of members of the board and includes travel to and attendance at national meetings or conventions.